

(638,000 head) of the Nation's milk cows, 6.7 percent (12.04 billion pounds) of total milk production, and 6.9 percent (\$1.6 billion) of total cash receipts from milk marketing. The importance of dairy to New York's 23rd District is readily apparent when one considers that the 2002 Census of Agriculture reported there were 1,989 dairy farms with 188,305 milk cows in the 11 counties that comprise the District.

I also appreciate the fact that the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) has provided about \$230 million in much-needed support to New York dairy farmers over the past 5 fiscal years and I know my constituent farmers do as well. Moreover, it is critical that the 2007 Farm Bill continue to provide dairy farmers with some form of income support. While I appreciate the support provided through MILC, the NDEA is an alternative that could help to provide additional support to American farmers with greater stability and at less cost to the taxpayer.

The NDEA would establish 5 Regional Dairy Marketing Areas (RDMA); the Intermountain, Midwest, Northeast, Pacific, and Southern. The Midwest, Northeast, and Southern regions would automatically be included as participating regions while the Intermountain and Pacific regions would have the ability to opt into the program.

In each region, a Regional Dairy Board would establish the minimum or over-order price for Class I (fluid) milk; that price would then have to be approved by farmers through a referendum. In the first year, the maximum price that a Board could establish is capped at \$17.50 per hundredweight (cwt.), but thereafter the price could rise based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I took a leave of absence on June 18, 2007, as I was attending to personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

"Aye"—H. Con. Res. 21, calling on the United Nations Security Council to charge Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the United Nations Charter because of his calls for the destruction of the State of Israel.

"Aye"—H. Con. Res. 151, noting the disturbing pattern of killings of dozens of independent journalists in Russia over the last decade, and calling on Russian President Vladimir Putin to authorize cooperation with outside investigators in solving those murders.

"Aye"—H. Res. 233, recognizing over 200 years of sovereignty of the Principality of Liechtenstein, and expressing support for efforts by the United States to continue to strengthen its relationship with that country.

REMEMBERING MINNESOTA'S  
"GREATEST GENERATION" AS  
MINNESOTA COMMEMORATES  
STATE WORLD WAR II MEMO-  
RIAL

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise in tribute to the "Greatest Generation" of Minnesotans. On June 9, 2007, an estimated 12,000 Minnesotans gathered on the state capitol grounds to offer this long-overdue commemoration for our State's World War II veterans.

The Minnesota World War II Memorial has an honored place, reflecting the sacrifices of those who served and those who died to protect our freedom. It provides a solemn reminder of past great sacrifices on behalf of our nation, but also gives us an important opportunity to properly thank the brave men and women in uniform fighting every day around the world.

Six decades ago, 16 million fought for freedom in the war, and more than 400,000 died. Although fought "over there," World War II had immense local impact. Approximately 326,000 Minnesota men and women enlisted in the military, leaving school, jobs and families behind. Nearly 6000 Minnesotans died. The war touched every life in some way as countless more men, women and children supported the war from the home front.

On May 29, 2004, I had the great honor of joining many of Minnesota's World War II veterans and their families in Washington, DC for the dedication of the National World War II Memorial. These veterans exemplify the spirit and sacrifice of America's Greatest Generation. My father served in the Armed Services during World War II, so this dedication is especially meaningful to me. As an auxiliary member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, I remain committed to ensuring that all our veterans receive the benefits and honor that they have earned.

Madam Speaker, please join with me and all Minnesotans in paying tribute to the Greatest Generation. They deserve our highest respect, gratitude and the support they were promised.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EDWARD MESSMER

### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Edward Messmer of Alexandria, Virginia for his service to the U.S. Department of State as Special Assistant to the Ambassador of Lebanon. In his official duties he was directly responsible for his efforts in providing fuel reserves into Lebanon during the 2006 conflict, which kept major power plants open, averting a health catastrophe.

In July and August of 2006, the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut found itself at the center of a major conflict when war broke out between Hizbollah fighters and Israeli forces.

The embassy received a great deal of attention for its work to mitigate the damage inflicted by the war. None was more important than the work done by Mr. Messmer to help move vital fuel past blockades and into Lebanon, maintaining power across the country.

Once the war began, a naval blockade was established around Lebanon to prevent the import of weapons, fuel and other support for the citizens of Lebanon. As a result, fuel stocks quickly plummeted at the country's three primary power plants. The plants were soon left with only a few days' worth of reserves. A continued interruption would have meant no water for essential services, hospitals and schools. Serving as the acting chief of the political section at the embassy, Mr. Messmer made it his personal mission to avert the developing crisis.

Mr. Messmer had to address multiple logistical and political challenges to get fuel past the blockade. The ship owners who carried the fuel didn't want to risk running the naval blockade, the Israeli forces wanted assurances that the fuel stocks would not be diverted to Hizbollah. Additionally, funding for the fuel needed to be secured from the weakening government of Lebanon. For three straight weeks, Mr. Messmer coordinated, persuaded and guided all of these disparate parties to a solution. He was in constant contact with the Lebanese government, U.S. embassies in Cyprus and Israel, ship owners, insurers and various offices in the Pentagon and the State Department.

Mr. Messmer's efforts paid off with the initial shipment of 56,000 tons of fuel to the about-to-close power facility just north of Beirut. His hard work enabled the country's entire electrical grid to remain operational until additional deliveries were sent over the next several weeks. Not only did Mr. Messmer's work help avert a humanitarian crisis; it also took away a potential propaganda tool from Hizbollah, which could have blamed the fuel crisis on the United States and its allies. For his contribution, Mr. Messmer was nominated for the Partnership for Public Service's International Affairs Medal.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Messmer for his leadership, and I am proud to have him live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District and contributing to the greatest civil service in the world. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRIAN SHARP

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 18, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Major Brian P. Sharp will be leaving his position as Assistant Marine Corps Liaison to the House of Representatives and will be continuing his military education at the Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia.

Major Sharp has been a valuable asset to the Marines since his enlistment in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1991. He attended the School of Infantry, Camp Geiger, MCB Camp Lejeune where he received the MOS of 0341 mortar man. He was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines for 4 years and